



# AREA 11 DELEGATE'S REPORT

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2022

## Area 11 General Service Committee

### Links to information:

**\*Presentation\*  
Path of a General  
Service  
Conference  
Agenda Item**

### BRIEF PRESENTATION

giving an overview of the path of a General Service Conference agenda item is available by clicking [here](#) (or by scanning the QR code below).



### 2021-2023 A.A. Service Manual

View as a PDF [here](#), or scan the QR Code



### THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS YOUR DELEGATE!!!!

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve you. I am also extremely honored that you trusted me to fulfill this role. It has been a very wild ride. I laughed, I cried, I trembled, and rejoiced. I learned a lot. I grew a lot. Every service position in A.A. is extremely important. When I was involved in the Committee on Cooperation Professional Community (my first service position outside of the home group), I felt such a sense of purpose in trying to help professionals learn what A.A. is and what A.A. is not—in order to help reach the still-suffering alcoholic that such professionals might come in contact with. I have been honored to fulfill many roles in A.A. since then. Being delegate is not any more special than being the Corrections Chairperson, G.S.R., or any other service role in A.A. That said, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve in this position. Every one teaches me more about A.A. and about myself—and this was no exception!

One of the main objectives of these monthly reports is to talk about what is happening outside of Area 11—with the year-long General Service Conference process, the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, and A.A. Grapevine/La Vina. The following is a snapshot of some overall lessons learned. I find it especially important to be as rigorously honest as possible and to tell the truth—the good, the bad, and the ugly.

### **The Good**

The annual General Service Conference is an amazing mechanism to help arrive at an informed group conscience. While I have been involved in many group consciences in many settings, it was especially interesting to witness the culmination of discussion emanating from all 93 Areas—plus the input from Trustees of the General Service Board as well as A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Directors and Staff—over the course of a week. There truly are

multiple angles to consider on any issue. I am grateful that the General Service Conference can provide a platform to provide for such rich discussions—both at the annual Conference meeting, and back home here in our Area. It has been especially inspiring to observe A.A. ask itself some very challenging questions. I have been amazed to see some of our G.S.O. staff members work so hard—going the extra mile—to help make 12<sup>th</sup> Step work possible. I have been impressed by the work of many of the Trustees' Committees on some innovative projects—such as the strenuous effort of the Trustees' Committee on Public Information to explore comprehensive media plans and to help ensure information on A.A. is making its way into relevant platforms. As I have often said, there are BIG THINGS happening in A.A. as a whole!

**The Bad:** From my observations, Concept IV's "Right of Participation" is not being fully honored as it relates to our paid "special workers." I do not feel that Area Delegates get a complete and honest picture of office functioning at the annual General Service Conference. It seems that one often needs to go outside of the usual channels of communication to get straight answers.

**The Ugly:** While Area Delegates make up 2/3 of the voting membership of the annual General Service Conference—Area Delegates only serve for two years, while the other voting members of the Conference are in their roles for far longer than that. This causes difficulty in the Area Delegates holding the people serving at the very bottom of the upside-triangle accountable. The fact that the Trustees Committees are who ultimately decide which proposed agenda items get forwarded to the General Service Conference and which ones do not also presents challenges. Ultimately, I think we can do better—in terms of checks and balances. It is with the utmost love and respect for Alcoholics Anonymous that I urge all of us—learn and understand those 12 Concepts for World Service! And always be wary of the phrase: "this is how we have always done things."

## PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PANEL 73 AREA OFFICERS:

We had an inspiring Fall Assembly! Congratulations to our incoming Area 11 Officers for the next two years:

Delegate: Mary E-K      Alternate Delegate: Mike R  
Chairperson: Jeff B.      Treasurer: Ryan R.  
Alt. Treasurer: Alfredo P.      Recording Secretary: Tyler N.  
Registrar: Rich V.      (Immediate Past Delegate: Matt K.)

### Principle of Rotation:

"To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. [...] But it can be a real step forward in growth — a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity." — From page 28 of the pamphlet "The A.A. Group... Where it all Begins"—reprinted with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.

### Regional/International Events

Connecticut is hosting this year's New England Conference of Young People in AA (NECYPAA)

<https://necypaahost.org/>

Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA)

February 23-26, 2023

Albany, NY

[www.neraasa.org](http://www.neraasa.org)

The next Northeast Regional Forum will be in 2023 in Framingham, MA.

Information on regional forums can be found here:

<https://www.aa.org/regional-and-local-forums>

2025 International Convention!

Schedule to take place in Vancouver, B.C.!

FAQ on the event: Click [here](#).

### 2023 AREA 11 Assemblies:

Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement as to dates and details for Area Assemblies in 2023! Reminder: Area Assemblies are extremely important and are where issues affecting A.A. worldwide are discussed (among other exciting topics)! Details to come from your next Area Delegate and Area Chairperson on this!

### General Service Board Updates

**General Service Conference**—The full list of proposed agenda items were distributed via email. There were 184 total proposed agenda items for next year's General Service Conference. Not all of them will be forwarded to the General Service Conference. We can soon expect a list of the final agenda items for the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference, scheduled to take place in 2023. (The list will be much shorter than the 184 *proposed* items). [Your Area 11 Delegate has put together a brief presentation about the path for a General Service Conference agenda item, which can be accessed [here](#).] The General Service Board Subcommittee on Conference Improvements plans to explore voting options that will allow a Conference Member to continue participation during the Conference week if they are physically unable to attend the Conference sessions—but I am unsure how firm any plans are and I am also not aware that any proposed agenda item addressing this topic were forwarded to next year's General Service Conference.

**International Convention Survey About Closings of Big Meetings**—A survey was distributed surrounding closings of the Big Meetings at the International Convention (i.e., whether to use certain prayers or not). To access the survey, click [here](#).

**Finance**—Year to 10/31/22 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Contributions were a little over \$8.3M.

### A.A.W.S./G.S.O. Updates

**Update on Printing Delays and Backorders**—An update on printing delays and backorders due to supply chain disruptions is available [here](#).

**G.S.O. has recently implemented a Language Services Department**—Recent announcement notes that this has

centralized the function of translation of our literature and many documents in several languages each year and also coordinates interpretation services to aid in communications with other A.A. service structures internationally.

**G.S.O. Has an Executive Legal Administrator**—late summer/early fall, an Executive Legal Administrator was hired, who is now the point person for all legal matters and is designing written workflows and procedures for contracts, licensing, Intellectual Property (IP)/Copyrights, etc.

### A.A. Grapevine/La Viña Updates

**Updates from Grapevine**—Information on some important updates with the A.A. Grapevine are available at [aagrapevine.org/important-updates](http://aagrapevine.org/important-updates). A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is switching to a new order fulfillment vendor better suited for their multi-platform subscription models. Also, Grapevine's online store will be integrated into their main website for easier access and improved functioning. There may be some service disruptions, especially for those ordering products online. Another update is that there is free shipping November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Grapevine is looking for your ideas and feedback on potential Grapevine and La Vina apps! Information is available [here](#). Reminder that there is a Grapevine Instagram photo contest. They are looking for photographs (which comport with A.A.'s Twelve Traditions) that reflect the joy of living, serenity, and other sobriety themes. Information can be found at <https://www.aagrapevine.org/social>.

Please feel free to copy this report and circulate it as needed within A.A. Groups, Districts, and A.A. Service Committees.

Mary E.K.  
Area 11 Alternate Delegate, Panel 71  
[alt-delegate@ct-aa.org](mailto:alt-delegate@ct-aa.org)

Matt K.  
Area 11 Delegate, Panel 71  
[delegate@ct-aa.org](mailto:delegate@ct-aa.org)